BYZANTINE SMALL FINDS
IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

OFFPRINT / AYRIBASIM

DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT
ABTEILUNG ISTANBUL

BYZAS 15

Veröffentlichungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Istanbul

YAYINLARI

BYZANTINE SMALL FINDS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Editors
Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan
Alessandra Ricci

Gedruckt mit Fördermitteln der Gerda Henkel Stiftung

GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG

Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts

Editors
Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan
Alessandra Ricci

BYZAS 15
Veröffentlichungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Istanbul

Herausgegeben von
Felix Pirson und Martin Bachmann

© 2012 Ege Yayınları
ISBN 978-605-5607-82-1
Certificate No. 14641

Umschlaggestaltung
(Kreuz aus Raum 2 des Gehöft 4 von Boğazköy. Foto: Boğazköy-Archiv).
Jürgen Seeher

Redaktion
Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan

Druck
MAS Matbaacılık A.Ş.
Hamidiye Mah. Soğuksu Cad. No. 3
Kağıthane - İstanbul / Türkiye
Tel: +90 (212) 294 10 00 Fax: +90 (212) 294 90 80
info@masmat.com.tr
Zertifikat-Nr.: 12055

Produktion und Vertrieb
Zero Prod. Ltd.
Abdullah Sokak. No: 17 Taksim 34433 Istanbul-Turkey
Tel: +90 (212) 244 75 21 Fax: +90 (212) 244 32 09
info@zerobooksonline.com
www.zerobooksonline.com/eng/

Contents / İçindekiler

Vorwort (F. Pirson / M. Bachmann) IX

Preface (S. Redford) XI

Preface / Önsöz (Z. S. Kızıltan) XIII

Editor's Preface (B. Böhlendorf-Arslan / A. Ricci) XVII

Rome-Byzantium Affinity and Difference in the Production of Luxury Goods
Marco Ricci 1

Mapping Byzantine Trade and Culture: An Introduction to the Artefacts from Salento, Southern Italy
Paul Arthur 17

The Working and Use of Metals in the Salento Peninsula (Apulia, Italy) from Byzantine to Angevin Times. Preliminary Results
Luciano Piepoli 27

Zur materiellen Kultur des byzantinischen Sizilien
Susanne Metaxas 39

Early Byzantine Glass from Athens (5th–8th centuries)
E. Marianne Stern 49

Considerations on Some Bronze Buckles from Byzantine Messene
Nikos Tsivikis 61

Holy Bread Stamps from Early Byzantine Delphi
Platon Petridis 81

Early Byzantine Iron Helmets from Novae (the Diocese of Thrace)
Andrzej B. Biernacki 91

Zur Identifizierung «byzantinischer» Feinschmiedearbeiten mithilfe herstellungstechnischer Studien unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Funden aus dem awarischen Siedlungsgebiet
Birgit Bühler 105

Middle and Late Byzantine Jewellery from Thessaloniki and its Region
Anastassios C. Antonaras 117

Kleinfunde aus der Basilikagrabung am Kalekapı in Marmara Ereğlisi (Herakleia Perinthos)
Stephan Westphalen 127

Yenikapı Kazısı Ahşap Buluntuları
M. Metin Gökçay 137

Left Behind: Small Sized Objects from the Middle Byzantine Monastic Complex of *Satyros* (Küçükyali, Istanbul)
Alessandra Ricci 147

Ören (Adramytteion Antik Kenti) Kazılarında Ele Geçen Bizans Küçük Buluntular
Tülin Çoruhlu 163

Byzantinischer Schmuck und Trachtbestandteile aus Pergamon
Andrea Pirson 173

Grave Goods from the Necropolis in the Agora of Iasos
Fede Berti 187

Byzantinische Kleinfunde und Trachtbestandteile aus Ephesos
Andrea M. Pülz 213

Kuşadası, Kadıkalesi/Anaia Kazısı: Bizans Döneminden Birkaç Küçük Buluntu
Zeynep Mercangöz 223

Byzantine Lead Seals from the Kadıkalesi/Anaia Excavations
Vera Bulgurlu 233

A Byzantine Lead Amulet from Samos
Evangelia Dafi 241

Placing ‹Contexts› in a Context: Minor Objects from Medieval Andros
Nikos D. Kontogiannis / Smaragdi I. Arvaniti 249

Small Finds from the Early Christian Settlement of Kefalos in Cos, Dodecanese
Evangelia Militsi 263

«The Building with Mosaics» in Olympos: A Comparative Evaluation of Finds and Building Construction
Muradiye Öztaşkın / Gökçen Kurtuluş Öztaşkın 277

Byzantine Small Finds from Elaiussa Sebaste
Adele Federica Ferrazzoli 289

Medieval Small Finds from the Yumuktepe Excavations 1993-2008
Gülgün Köroğlu 309

Small Finds from the Early 9th Century Destruction at Amorium
Oğuz Koçyiğit 319

Small Finds for the Dating of a Tomb at Amorium
Hüseyin Yaman 331

Middle Byzantine Textile Finds from Amorium
Petra Linscheid 343

Das bewegliche Inventar eines mittelbyzantinischen Dorfes: Kleinfunde aus Boğazköy
Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan 351

Der Gegenstand im Bild. Zur Kontextualisierung von Realien in der byzantinischen Wandmalerei Kappadokiens
Rainer Warland 369

A Twelfth Century Iron Workshop at Kinet, Turkey
Scott Redford 385

Small Finds from Zeytinli Bahçe - Birecik (Urfa)
Francesca Dell'Era 393

Early Byzantine Military Fibulas with Returned Foot from South-Western Crimea
Alexander Aibabin 407

Early Medieval Crosses from the South-Western Crimea
Elzara A. Khairedinova 417

Byzantine Bone Wares from Chersonesos in Taurica: Interpretation and Chronology
Elena Klenina 441

Metal Small Finds from Sinai. Preliminary Remarks
Dionysios Mourelatos 457

Ein Hochzeitsring aus der Bucht von Abuqir (Ägypten)
Yvonne Petrina 463

Context, Stratigraphy, Residuality. Problems of Establishing a Chronology of Early Byzantine Glass in Southern Egypt
Daniel Keller 477

Contributors to the volume / Sempozyum Kitabının Yazarları 489

Vorwort

Im Juni 2008 fand in Istanbul mit großzügiger Unterstützung der Gerda Henkel Stiftung der internationale Workshop zu «Byzantinischen Kleinfunden im Kontext» statt, der gemeinsam vom Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations der Koç Universität, dem Archäologischen Museum Istanbul und der Abteilung Istanbul des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts ausgerichtet worden war.

Die so genannten Kleinfunde byzantinischer Zeit sind lange durch das Netz etablierter Fächerkulturen gefallen. In vielen Fällen ist es erst der interdisziplinären Zusammenarbeit von Byzantinischer Archäologie und Frühgeschichte zu verdanken, daß die häufig unscheinbaren und in der Regel kunsthistorisch unbedeutenden Objekte endlich eine erhöhte Aufmerksamkeit erfahren. Wie groß der Bedarf an einem wissenschaftlichen Austausch zu dem Thema ist, zeigte die sehr positive Resonanz auf die Einladung zu dem Istanbuler Workshop, der 46 Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus Deutschland, Österreich, Italien, Griechenland, Polen, der Türkei, Ukraine, USA, den Niederlande und Israel gefolgt sind. Während der Tagung entwickelten sich zahlreiche fruchtbare Diskussionen und es wurden Kontakte geknüpft, auf deren Basis der Diskurs bis heute weitergeführt wird.

Dementsprechend groß war der Wunsch der Teilnehmer, die Beiträge der Tagung zu publizieren. Der vorliegende Band umfasst 38 Beiträge und kann damit als aktuelles Kompendium zu den byzantinischen Kleinfunden und ihrem Auftreten in archäologischen Kontexten gelten.

In diesem Zusammenhang gilt unser besonderer Dank wiederum der Gerda Henkel Stiftung, die den Druck des Tagungsbandes in der Reihe BYZAS mit einer substantiellen Förderung ermöglicht hat. Danken möchten wir auch unseren Istanbuler Partnern, d. h. dem Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations der Koç Universität und dem Archäologischen Museum Istanbul, für die wie immer ausgezeichnete Zusammenarbeit. Hier hat sich mittlerweile eine schlagkräftige Troika etabliert, die 2011 gemeinsam mit weiteren Institutionen die internationale Tagung «Häfen und Hafenstädte im östlichen Mittelmeerraum von der Antike bis in byzantinische Zeit» ausgerichtet hat, die gleichfalls in der Reihe BYZAS publiziert wird. Schließlich danken wir den Organisatorinnen

der Tagung und zugleich Herausgeberinnen dieses Bandes Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan und Alessandra Ricci für ihre Initiative und ihren unermüdlichen Einsatz, ohne die das Projekt «Kleinfunde» nicht hätte realisiert werden können.

Felix Pirson und Martin Bachmann
Istanbul, Mai 2012

Preface

On June 2-4, 2008, the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations of Koç University was pleased to play co-host, along with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Istanbul to a symposium entitled «Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Context», and supported by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung. This symposium was organized by Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan, then of the DAI, and Alessandra Ricci of Koç University. The RCAC is indebted to Drs. Böhlendorf-Arslan and Ricci for organizing and running this highly successful symposium, and, in addition, for editing the papers present in this volume. It is hoped that the contextualization of small finds will shed new light on objects displayed in museum collections that have no such context, and give us clues as to their use in Byzantine societies.

Scott Redford
Director, RCAC
Koç University

Preface / Önsöz

Held 2-4 June 2008, in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute Istanbul, Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, and the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, the «Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts» Workshop provided us with an analysis of the Byzantine art and craftsmanship that developed within the economic, social, cultural and religious systems of the Byzantine Empire, which spanned eleven centuries; and also shed light on the daily life and systems of thought of the period through various remains from the quotidian sphere.

Comprised of both fairly simple and artistically significant artefacts, this collection of objects was crafted to serve a variety of purposes, including to impress, display social status, adorn, protect from evil, or plead for god's grace; and all of the objects were a reflection of the skilful craftsmanship of the period that is available to us through items made of ivory, silver (although rare), gold, bronze and other metals, glass, various precious stones, terracotta, wood, and wool and silk.

The ostentatious court life of the Byzantine Empire; the customary gifts of emperors; the rich material culture created by wealthy families; the feasting habits, personal care and adornment practices of individuals, as well as their daily life and religious practices – all of these factors contributed to the rich diversity of production by Byzantine artists and craftsmen.

The importance of the symposium is emphasized by the range of topics discussed by experts in the field: the scarcity of the number of surviving small finds; the re-use of gold and silver artefacts by means of smelting; the long periods of time during which glass and terracotta materials remained unearthed; the conservation of wood and textiles in geographical regions with suitable conditions; and the loss of the majority of rich liturgical resources that we know of from written texts and the scarcity of materials.

Participants to the symposium were presented with an important set of data with regard to cultural relationships and their location through the consideration of specific materials, including bronze, affordable and extensively used in daily life and liturgical contexts to manufacture small objects; gold, popular both during the medieval period and the Byzantine Empire as well as in the West, especially in liturgical contexts; silver, necessary for the production of civil and liturgical artefacts; ivory, an expensive material

used to produce objects for eminent members of society; and glass, to make necklaces and amulets. Also discussed were bronze, silver and gold coins and medallions that are significant sources of our understanding of their respective period; and ampullae that blessed and protected their owners.

Furthermore, reports presented at the symposium allowed us to trace representations of Byzantine culture and art outside Constantinople: burial gifts found in the Iasos Agora; weapons and jewellery in Elaiussa Sebaste; ceramic, glass, metal and other artefacts used in jewellery production found in the harbour city of Kadıkalesi; objects found in Bergama, important for our understanding of Byzantine handicrafts; primarily bronze and iron but also silver, gold and bone objects from the rich collection of Ephesus; textiles unearthed in Amorium; the pilgrim flask and other small finds from the Yumuktepe Medieval Mound; and small finds and crosses from Boğazköy and the Zeytin Bahçe Mound.

Similarly, the lifestyles, arts, religious practices and technology of areas outside the Byzantine capital were explored through numerous types of objects, including regional bronze and glass jewellery from the middle Byzantine period excavations carried out in Thessalonica, Greece; Byzantine objects from Terra d'Otranto, Italy; military helmets from Thracia Novae, Bulgaria; traditional glass objects from the Late Antique period of southern Egypt; objects from Crimea that are representations of personal faith; bone tools from Chersoneses, Taurica; objects from Sicilia and liturgical objects found in the Early Christian settlements of Kos; medieval metal objects from Salento; and glass objects from Byzantine Athens.

The collection of papers presented in the «Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts» Workshop, will represent a significant resource for those who pursue research in the field. I would cordially like to thank each participating institution and individual for their efforts during the preparation of this book.

Zeynep S. Kızıltan

Director, Istanbul Archaeological Museums

İstanbul Alman Arkeoloji Enstitüsü, Koç Üniversitesi Anadolu Medeniyetleri Araştırma Merkezi ve İstanbul Arkeoloji Müzeleri işbirliğinde, 2-4.06.2008 tarihleri arasında, gerçekleştirilen «Arkeolojik Kazılarda Ele Geçen Bizans Küçük Buluntuları» konulu sempozyum, 11 yüzyıl boyunca varlığını sürdürmüş, Bizans İmparatorluğunun ekonomik, sosyal, kültürel ve dini sistemleri içinde gelişen, sanat ve zanaatı ile birlikte, günlük hayatta kullandıkları çeşitli nesneler, dönemin yaşam tarzını ve düşünce sistemlerinin incelenmesini sağladı.

Bu nesnelerin etki yaratma, sahiplerinin toplumsal statüsünü gösterme, süslenme, kötülüklerden korunma veya tanrıya sığınma, onun inayetini çekme gibi çeşitli amaçlarla yapılan ve sempozyum bildirilerinde yer alan fildişi, gümüş, azda olsa altın, tunç ve diğer metaller, cam, çeşitli değerli taşlar, pişmiş toprak ve ahşap, yün veya ipek kumaştan yapılmış, bir kısmı oldukça sade, kimi sanatsal açıdan değerli eserler dönemlerinin usta işçiliklerini günümüze yansıttı.

Bizans İmparatorluğu'nun gösterişli saray hayatı, imparatorların hediye dağıtma geleneği, varlıklı ailelerin yarattığı zengin maddi kültür, halkın yeme içme, kişisel bakım ve süslenme gibi günlük yaşantıları ile ibadet biçimleri Bizans'daki sanat ve zanaat üretiminde zengin çeşitliliğe yol açmıştır.

Küçük buluntulardan günümüze ulaşan eser sayısının azlığı, gümüş ve altından yapılmış nesnelerin daha sonra eritilerek kullanılması, cam ve pişmiş toprağın yüzyıllarca toprağın altında kalması, ahşap ve dokuma ürünlerinin ise iklim koşullarının uygun olduğu coğrafyalarda korunması, yazılı kaynaklarda belirtilen zengin kilise malzemelerinin çoğunun kaybolmuş olması ve az sayıdaki örneğin konunun uzmanlarınca tartışılması, bu sempozyumun önemini vurgulamaktadır.

Ucuz maliyetli olması nedeniyle, her dönemde, sivil ve dini alanda küçük nesne yapımında kullanılan tunç, Orta Çağ'da hem Bizans İmparatorluğu hem de Batı'da özellikle liturjik eşyaların yapımında kullanılan altın, sivil ve dini eselerin yapımında kullanılan gümüş, toplumun ileri gelenleri için yapılan nesnelerde kullanılan ve pahalı bir malzeme olan fildişi, kolye ve amulet yapımında kullanılan cam, her dönemin tarihsel gelişimini açıklamada önemli bir kaynak olan ve başta tunç olmak üzere gümüş ve altın kullanılarak yapılan sikkeler ile zafer ya da diğer özel nedenlerle kıymetli madenden yapılan kabartmalı madalyonlar, kutsayan, kötülüklerden koruyan, ampullalar buluntu yerleri kültürel ilişkiler açısından sempozyum katılımcılarına önemli bilgiler sundu.

Ayrıca sempozyumda sunulan bildirilerden, Iasos Agora'sındaki mezar hediyeleri, Elaiussa Sebaste'deki takılar, silahlar, Kadıkalesi liman kentindeki seramik, cam, maden ve kuyumculuk üretimine ait eserler, Bizans el sanatları açısından özel bir önem taşıyan Bergama buluntuları, genelde bronz ve demirin yanı sıra gümüş, altın ve kemikten yapılmış zengin Efes buluntuları, Amorium'da gün ışığına çıkartılan tekstil parçaları, Yumuktepe Orta Çağ Höyüğün'deki hacı matarası ve küçük buluntular, Boğazköy ve Zeytin Bahçe Höyük'teki küçük buluntu ve haçlar Bizans Kültür ve Sanatının Konstantinopolis dışındaki izlerini takip etmemizi sağladı.

Yine Anadolu dışında Selanik'te yürütülen Orta Bizans Dönemi kazılarında bulunan cam ve bronzdan yapılan yerel takılar, İtalya Terra d'Otranto'daki Bizans Dönemi'ne ait eserler, Bulgaristan – Trakya Novae deki askeri miğferler, Güney Mısır'daki Geç Antik Çağ geleneksel camlar, kişisel inancın sembolleri olan Kırım buluntuları, Kersonesos, Taurıca kemik aletleri, Sicilya buluntuları ile Kos adasında, Erken Hristiyanlık yerleşmelerinde ele geçen dini amaçlı buluntular, Salento, Orta Çağ Metalleri, Atina Bizans cam buluntuları, bizlere Bizans başkenti dışında, diğer coğrafyalardaki, yaşam tarzı, sanatı, inanç sistemi ve teknolojileri ile ilgili ayrıntılı bilgiler verdi.

«Arkeolojik Kazılarda Ele Geçen Bizans Küçük Buluntuları» konulu sempozyumda sunulan bildirilere ait bu kitap, bu alanda çalışan araştırmacılar için önemli bir kaynak olacaktır. Sempozyum ve kitabın hazırlanmasında emek harcayan ve katkı veren tüm kurum ve kişilere yürekten teşekkür ederim.

Zeynep S. Kızıltan
İstanbul Arkeoloji Müzeler Müdürü

Editor's Preface

The concept of the «Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts» Workshop (Istanbul 2-4 June, 2008) grew out of the conveners' active engagement in fieldwork centering on the Late Antique and Byzantine periods. Regardless of the geographical location of fieldwork, the nature of specific sites and areas, and the implications of investigations carried out, a recurring archaeological condition seems to emerge: moveable finds, particularly those not fitting within the known categories of typologies, still lack a reliable documentary and comparative base grounded in archaeological contextualization – in spite of the fact that archaeological investigations comprising materials from the Late Antique and Byzantine periods have traditionally yielded and continue to produce conspicuous percentages of small-sized objects. These encompass a highly diversified spectrum of objects and mediums, including jewellery and dress ornaments; portable objects of worship; amulets and items that shaped the world of magic in Byzantine society; lead seals; bread stamps; small containers; luxury goods; and much more. These objects also represent a broad range of contexts and functions, spanning across the borders of consumption and utilitarian goods: from domestic to funerary, from rural to urban, and from institutional and ritual spaces to civic and more intimate ones, to name but a few. Overall, these small-sized objects reveal shared sociological habits, social groupings, rituals and practices while also providing subtle insights into individual inclinations and social status as well as more personal interactions. They also contribute to the identification of various forms of diversity otherwise difficult to detect.

More importantly, small-sized objects can support a clearer retrieval of patterns of movement and exchange. The network of movement associated with commerce, trade, military undertakings and pilgrimage as well as migration and dispossession can, through the study of contextualized small-sized objects, contribute toward the definition of a fuller picture of the worlds that made Late Antiquity and Byzantium. At the same time, accurate analysis of small finds may also represent a welcome addition to the rapidly growing study of social networks broadly conceived in terms of the spaces, times and interpreters with which they intersected. In more general terms, networks are also to be understood as complex systems of dialogue and exchange that Byzantium established with worlds at close or more remote distances. From the re-orientation of Mediterranean societies in Late Antiquity to the expanding crossroad territories of the Byzantine period, the circulation of small-sized objects in spaces beyond its limits offers the opportunity for further reflections on the notions of neighboring cultures and their interactions.

The accurate retrieval and study of small finds from archaeological contexts broadens the spectrum of mediums that may fall under this grouping, which include not only metal, wood and bones but also textiles, glass, shells and lead. At the same time, there appears to be a growing effort on the part of Late Antique and Byzantine archaeologists to enhance on-site retrieval and conservation techniques through projects that include the creation of on-site conservation laboratories employing specialists. This new and very welcome development allows for a larger percentage of small finds to be retrieved and undergo initial on-site conservation and study, a step crucial to their survival. More-accurate analysis and observations will follow in the post-excavation phases, with ever more promising perspectives on the deciphering of technologies and their transformation in Byzantine times.

The workshop was therefore designed to serve as a forum aimed at bringing together colleagues whose work in the field yielded small finds from archaeological contexts and whose study and analysis, combined with archaeology, brought new insights. Papers presented previously unpublished materials ranging from the 5th to the 13th centuries. Whereas similar workshops centering on other contextualized finds – with ceramics being the most notable example – have led to substantial progress in research, small finds seem to have lagged behind. Consequently, as excavations progress, advances are made in the archaeological sciences, and more finds are documented, processed and published – thus comprising a growing range of finds – the «unimpressive» or hard-to-pin-down small-sized object, when retrieved, continues to be at risk of languishing in excavations or museum deposits for longer than deserved. The workshop attempted to begin filling this gap by encouraging contributions on small finds as defined broadly, in addition to wide-ranging discussion of archaeological contexts and methods.

The papers in the volume reflect the contributors' diverse approaches to their fieldwork and research along with the wide variety of finds discussed. One goal of the workshop was to observe whether studies of small finds from archaeological contexts may help to establish accurate chronologies, that is, whether small finds may contribute toward the definition of chronological frameworks, as other finds do. Moreover, the results of the workshop may help to answer the question of how, in the absence of other finds, small finds may guide the archaeologist in the periodization of context and action. The editors and organizers of the workshop hope that the publication of this volume represents a contribution to the growth of studies of small finds in connection with archaeology, and that it will be seen as a comprehensive collection of information not only for those working in the field but also for those at a distance from the sites and archaeology.

The transition from the idea of the workshop to its actual accomplishment was possible thanks to the help and support of a number of individuals, colleagues and institutions. We are pleased that the directors of the German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul (DAI), Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (RCAC) and the Istanbul Archaeological Museums offered support.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the director of the DAI, Prof. Dr. Felix Pirson, who, together with the workshop's organizers, put forth a request for financial

support from the Gerda Henkel Foundation. To the Gerda Henkel Foundation goes our unconditional gratitude for having provided the means for the gathering to take place as well for this publication. The DAI and the RCAC kindly made available their facilities both for the preparation of the workshop and for its sessions. In particular, our thanks go to the two assistants, Oya Demirci at the DAI and Esra Erol at the RCAC, who helped to coordinate innumerable practicalities. One of the workshop's sessions was generously hosted by the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, and to its Director, Zeynep S. Kızıltan, we would like to extend sincere thanks on our behalf as well as on behalf of all the participants. We also would like to thank Gülbahar Baran-Çelik for organizing the display of small finds from the Museums' collections, including objects that have rarely been shown. The flyer and poster for the Workshop were designed by Hüseyin Yaman and Oğuz Koçyiğit and generously printed by Ahmet Boratav, Ege Yayınları.

Finally, thanks are due to the directors of the DAI, Prof. Dr. Felix Pirson and Dr. Martin Bachmann, for having encouraged publication of the workshop's papers in the BYZAS series, where we believe they have found an ideal home. We thank the Gerda Henkel Foundation for the generous publication grant. Also, we would like to extend our warm thanks to Hülya Tokmak of Zero publishing house who worked on the volume's layout and to Ahmet Borotav. Mary Cason and Johanna Witte helped with the editing of some of the English papers. The editors were responsible for the editing of the papers and organization of the volume, while each author took responsibility for the scientific content of his or her own research. Preparation of this book benefited from the Turkish translations and editing generously undertaken by Nilden Ergün and Prof. Dr. Nurettin Arslan, whom we thank with gratitude.

Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan
Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum
Forschungszentrum für Archäologie
Mainz

Alessandra Ricci
Department of Archaeology &
History of Art
Koç University, Istanbul

B. Böhlendorf-Arslan – A. Ricci (eds.), Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts, BYZAS 15 (2012) 441-455

Byzantine Bone Wares from Chersonesos in Taurica: Interpretation and Chronology

Elena KLENINA

Abstract

Bones and horns of animals become available for processing after the death of the living beings and did not loose their properties during the time of manufacture and while in use. This paper presents bone wares found as a result of the excavation seasons of 2004–2007 in block 60 of Taurica. They have been classified according to functional features into three groups of categories: war and hunting, horse harness; work and household; spiritual life.

Keywords: Chersonesos, Taurica, Bone, Tools, Spiritual life

Özet

Hayvan kemikleri ve boynuzları, canlı türlerinin ölümünden sonraki üretim ve kullanım aşamasında özelliklerini kaybetmeden işlenerek uygun hale getirilirler. Bu makalede kemikten yapılmış aletler ve eşyalar, blok 60'ta 2004–2007 yıllarındaki kazıların sonucunda bulunmuşlardır. Bunlar işlevsel özelliklerine göre üç gruba ayrılmışlardır; savaşla ve avcılıkla ilgili olanlar at koşum takımları gibi, ev işiyle ilgili olanlar ve ruhani yaşam ile ilgili olanlar.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Kersonesos, Taurica, Kemik, Aletler, Ruhani Yaşam

The medium of bone occupies a relevant place among the categories of small sized objects due to multiple meanings attached to it. Bones and horns of animals become available for processing after the death of the living beings and did not loose their properties during the time of manufacture and while in use. Due to these very reasons they were perceived as a depository of living power and were considered as a symbol of immortality. Special importance was given to horns, fangs and claws of animals as symbols of their strength and they were used as amulets.

It should be noted that under the conditions of natural economy the material of objects to choose raw material was closely connected with the environmental conditions than with

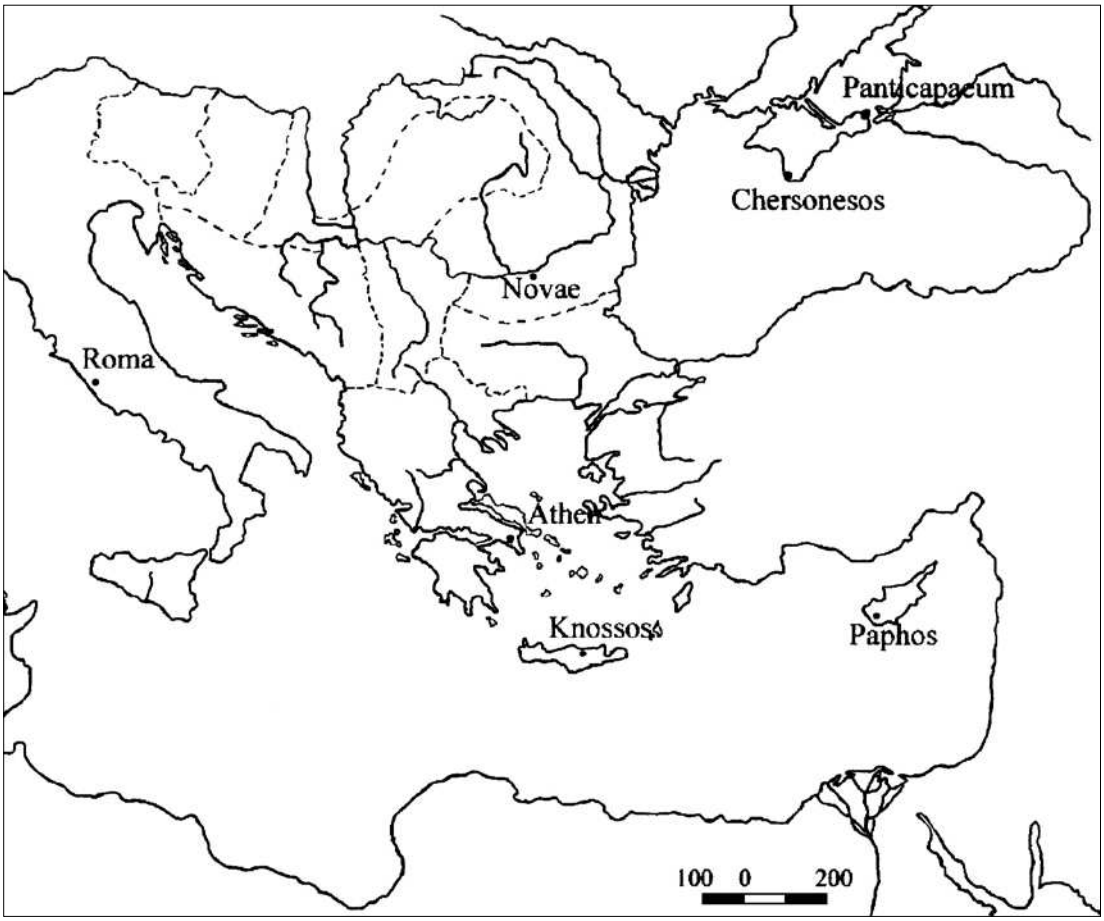

Fig. 1 Map of the eastern Mediterranean.

beliefs or traditions. Some researchers connect the spreading of bone wares among settled populations with the influence of nomadic tribes. However, we believe that the creation of complex items, including objects made of bones in settlements, was a more complicated process, the result of the influence of different ethno-cultural traditions[1].

Chersonesos in Taurica is a Greek colony founded at the end of the 5th century BC by emigrants from Heracleia Pontica and that continued to exist for 2000 years (fig. 1). The last record about Chersonesos-Cherson in Byzantine sources dates to 1396[2]. The city was probably completely abandoned some decades later. Excellently preserved layers of residential areas dating to the Byzantine and late Byzantine periods are of particular interest. Unfortunately, bone wares found during archaeological research at Chersonesos have been scarcely studied. Bone wares attracted the special attention of researchers during the 180-year history of the excavations because of their artistic interest. Publications devoted to domestic objects made of bone are not numerous[3]. The most important are

1 Flyorova 2001, 11 f.

2 Koromila 1991, 157.

3 Romančuk 1981, 84.

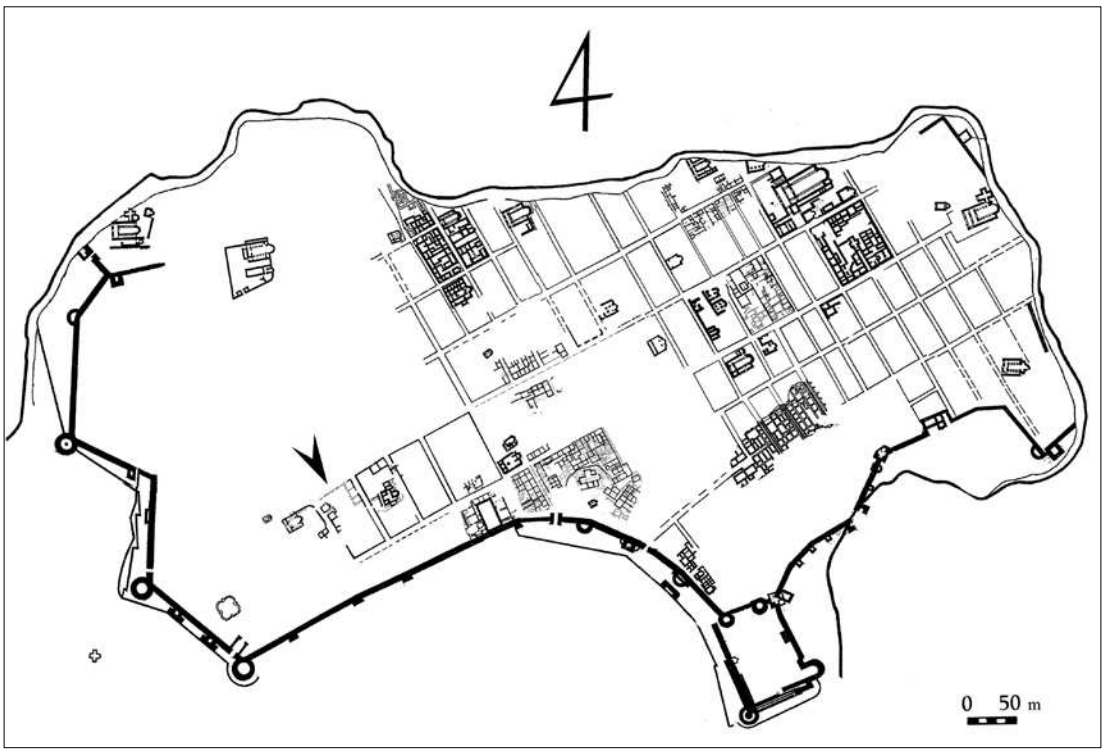

Fig. 2 Map of Chersonesos Taurica.

recent publications on complexes of finds from the layers of the site that are well dated, where wares made of bones and horns are well presented[4]. However, the problem of interpretation in such published works is often unresolved.

In 2004, research of block 60 in the western part of Chersonesos which includes sacred and residential buildings started within the long-term Ukraine-Poland scientific-research project named «Topography of Chersonesos Taurican», realized together with the National Preserve «Chersonesos Taurican» (Sevastopol, Ukraine) and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland). The supervisors of this project are Dr A. B. Biernacki (Poland) and Dr E. Klenina (Ukraine). At the present time a three-apsed church, a one-apse chapel – burial-vault and part of two dwelling houses have been excavated (fig. 2-4).

In this paper bone wares found as a result of the excavation seasons of 2004-2007 in block 60 are presented. They have been classified into three groups of categories of objects according to functional features and based on their sphere of usage:

- objects connected with warfare and hunting, horse harness;
- household and working tools;
- objects connected with spiritual life.

Fragments of bone plates with a circular ornament on the outside surface are related to the sphere of military equipment. Such cover plates were glued and sewn to the base of

4 Golofast – Ryzhov 2003, 217 f.; Bülow 2007, 265-304; Poulter 2007, 65-79.

Fig. 3 General view of Chersonesos Taurica.

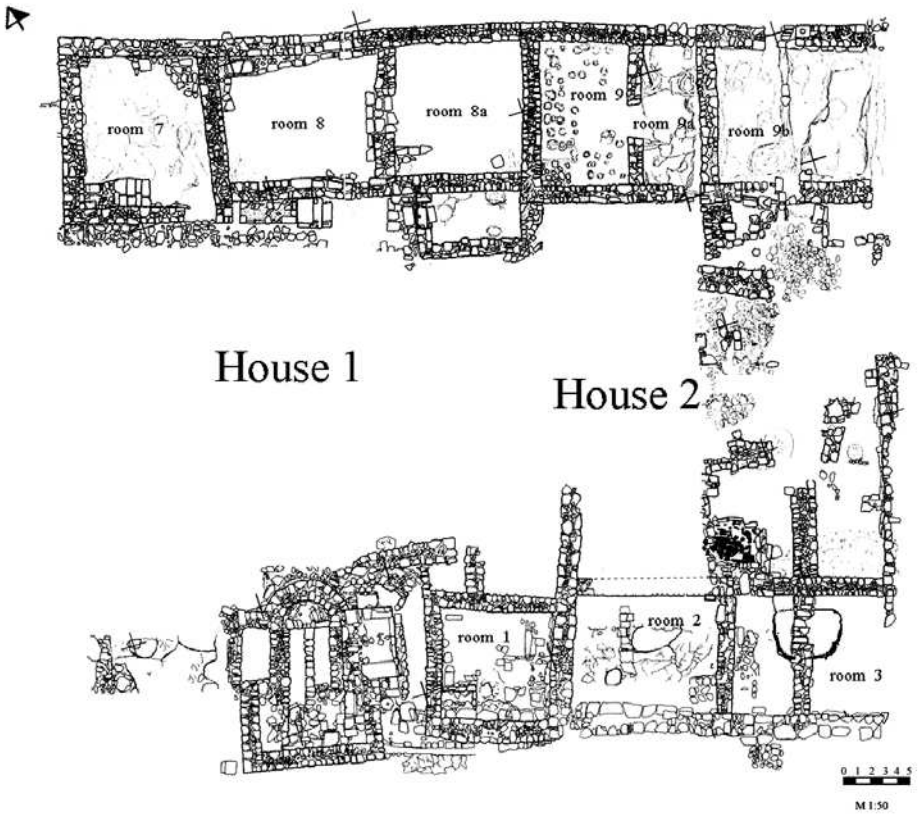

Fig. 4
General plan of dwelling houses in block 60.

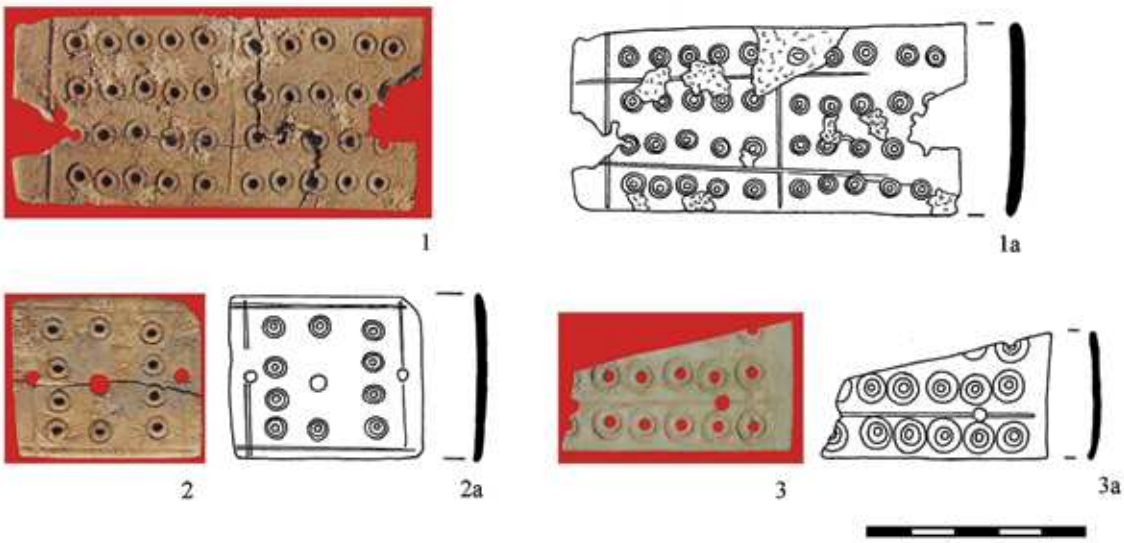

Fig. 5 Bone objects part of military equipment.

a quiver. In block 60 all cover plates of this kind were found in premise 1 of house #1 or close to it in the layer dating to the second half of the 10th–11th centuries (fig. 5). Plates were thoroughly polished during the process of manufacture, and later naturally during use of a quiver. They decorated the neck of a quiver. Similar plates from Sarkel – Belaya Vezha are dated to the 10th– the beginning of the 13th centuries[5]. V. F. Flyorova believes that the fashion for bone plates was introduced during a new wave of western migration of Turkic tribes. In Corinth similar plates were discovered in a layer of the Byzantine period and are interpreted as cover plates of a casket[6]. In our case the plates are slightly curved and it would be practically impossible to fix them on the flat surface of a wooden casket.

The majority of objects in this group within block 60 are presented as bone details of horse equipment. A fragment of a *psalium* of a horse harness was found in block 60 (fig. 6, 1). *Psaliums* similar in form were found during excavation of a Bulgarian settlement near the village of Odertzi in the layers dating to the 9th–12th centuries[7].

A saddle-girth buckle of a rectangular form with a rounded top of an upper ear which has separate cuts for a tongue and belt also relates to horse equipment; it was found on the stone pavement in the yard of house #2 under the destruction layer dating to the 13th century (fig. 6, 3). A similar buckle was discovered in a burial of the nomadic cemetery at Belaya Vezha. S. A Pletneova dates it to the 11th century and believes that such a type was used by the Polovtzi[8]. A similar buckle was found in the course of excavations of a Bulgarian settlement near the village of Odertzi and it is dated within a rather broad chronological framework, the 7th–13th centuries[9].

5 Flyorova 2001, 52.

6 Davidson 1952, 136 no. 953.

7 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 84.

8 Flyorova 2001, 65.

9 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 84.

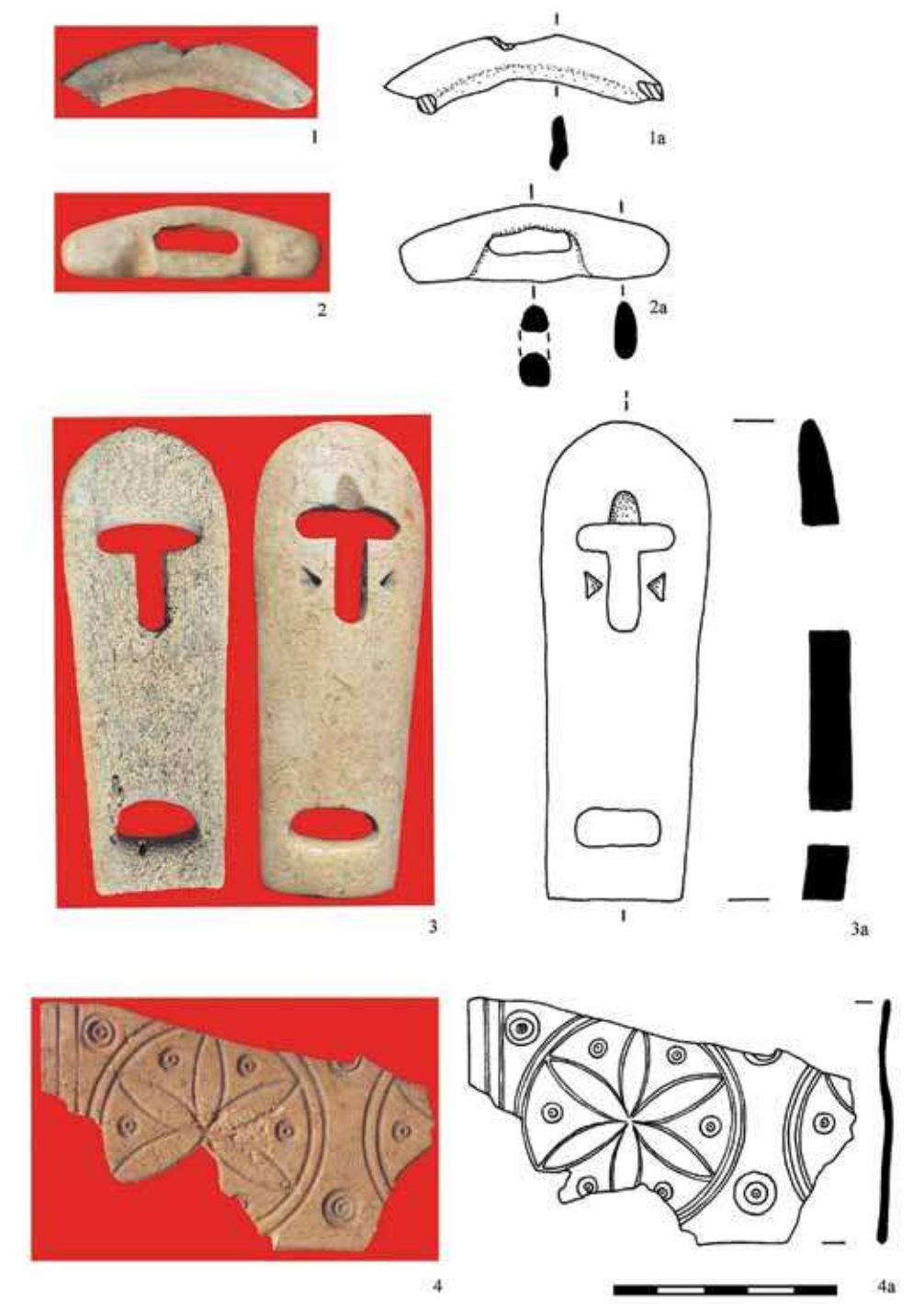

Fig. 6 Bone details of horse equipment.

A bone hasp that was used to fasten horse trapping belts as well as for the suspension of saddle-bow straps bags, quivers and clothes, is also referred to as horse equipment. The surface on both sides is rubbed off due to frequent use. In block 60 such a fastener was discovered in the filling-in of a basement of premise 9b dating to the second half of the 11th century (fig. 6, 2). Nomads widely used bone hasp as early as the 6th century. In Russia they were used in the

10th–13th centuries. In the port district of Chersonesos, a similar fastener of a simpler form was found in layers dating to the 13th–14th centuries[10]. Fasteners of the same type were found in Sarkel in a layer dating to the end of the 10th century and in the steppe of Euro-Asia dating to the 9th–13th centuries[11]. In Bulgaria similar forms of fasteners were found with materials dating to the end of the 9th– the beginning of the 11th centuries and the 11th–12th centuries[12].

A part of the bone cover plate of a saddle is one of the most interesting finds. At the present time, in the Black Sea region only a few fragments of bone details of a saddle have been found. E. A. Armarčuk divided them into two groups: «Alanic» and «Nomadic»[13]. The «Nomadic» group of saddles is decorated with bone or horny plates with circular-compass-hatch ornaments. This group is dated to the 11th– the beginning of the 13th centuries. In Chersonesos, a cover plate decorating a horse saddle of the «Nomadic» group was found at the level of a day surface of the south-eastern inter-block street near premise 1 of the house #1 which functioned in the 11th–12th centuries (fig. 6, 4).

The second group includes tools and household objects as well as items to untie the fetter-locks of horses and to widen holes in belts. The latter are a particular kind of awls. On the blunt end there is a hole for suspension on the belt. Two of such objects made of animal horn were found in block 60. One item with a broken end was found in a layer dating to the second half of the 13th–14th centuries of premise 1 of house #1 (fig. 7, 2). Another object was found in premise 9a of house #2 in a layer dating to the 13th–14th centuries (fig. 7, 1). Such instruments were necessary for a hunter, especially for a rider, and were a part of waist-belt together with a fire-stone and a knife. Similar objects were discovered in Sudak in a layer dating to the third quarter of the 14th century[14]. In Bulgaria they were found during excavations of a settlement near the village of Odertzi in layers dating to the 9th–10th centuries[15]. In Sarkel this type of tool was widespread in the 9th–12th centuries[16]. Similar objects were found in Corinth in Byzantine layers[17].

A bone shank-shaped tool was used as an awl. A narrow sharpened end represents a working edge. An awl of this kind with a broken working end was found in block 60 in a layer dating to the 11th–13th centuries, in the street (fig. 7, 4). Similar awls were found in Sarkel, in layers dating to the 9th–12th centuries[18]. In Odertzi (Bulgaria) awls of this type are found in layers dating to the 9th–12th centuries[19]. The form and purpose of bone awls

10 Romančuk 1981, 96.

11 Flyorova 2001, 66 f.; Armarčuk 2006, 39 f.

12 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 84; Borisov 1989, 127.

13 Armarčuk 2006, 37.

14 Baranov 2004, 555.

15 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 84-87.

16 Flyorova 2001, 71 f.

17 Davidson 1952: 338 nos. 2904-2905.

18 Flyorova 2001, 73 f.

19 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 84.

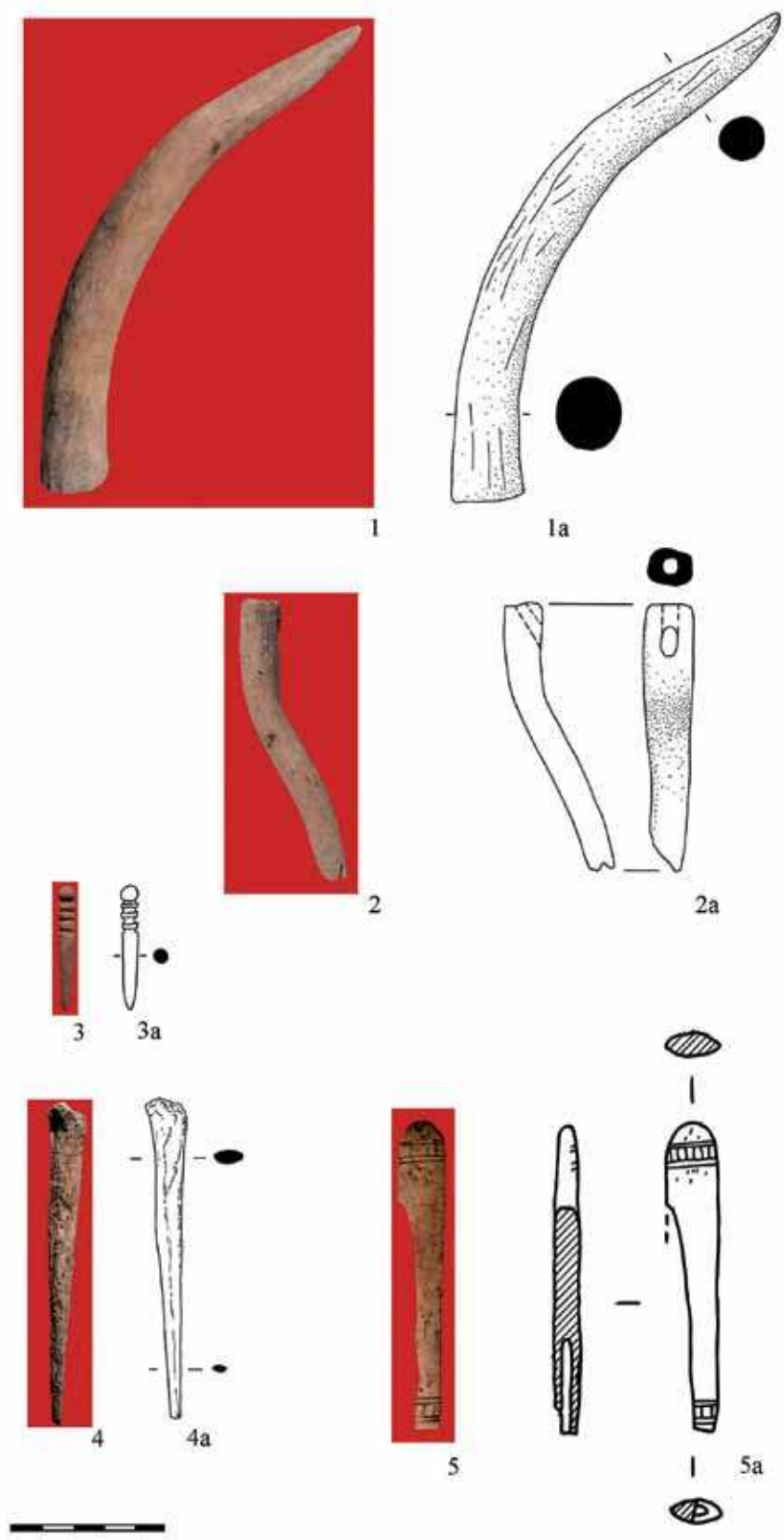

Fig. 7 Tools and household objects.

did not change for ages. In the Black Sea region this type of tools was found in layers of Hellenistic and Roman periods[20].

Small bone tools in the form of pins are often found in layers dating to the Byzantine period in Chersonesos[21]. All of them are of one type but differ slightly in the design of a head. In premise 1 of house # 1, in layer of destruction dating to the end of the 13th–14th centuries, such an instrument was found (fig. 7, 3). In Corinth they are found in layers of the late Roman and Byzantine times[22].

The fine bone handle of a knife was found during cleaning of the north-eastern wall of premise 7 of house #1, in a layer dating to the 13th–14th centuries (fig. 7, 5). Knives with such handles were probably not used for productive purposes. They were perhaps part of a setting or of a personal wardrobe of the inhabitants of the house. In the Byzantine layers in Chersonesos handles of such type are often found. In most cases they are decorated with a circular or combed ornament[23].

Superimposed carved plates used to decorate caskets and furniture found in Chersonesos in layers of the Byzantine period can be divided into three groups according to their decoration: 1: compass and geometric ornament, 2: stylized floral ornament, 3: images of animals and birds[24]. Among the material found in block 60 there are plates with a circular and stylized floral ornament. In premise 1 of house #1 two small square bone plates with stylized ornament were discovered (fig. 8, 1-2). One of them comes from a layer dating to the 10th century, the other from the 11th–12th centuries. Superimposed plates are nearly square; the surface of the bone is not thoroughly polished and is cracked. There are no holes for attachment. These superimposed plates were attached to the base only with the help of glue. The base was wood (caskets and furniture) and cloth (funeral cover). As our finds were discovered within one premise should may that they were on the surface of a box or decorated some piece of furniture. In Chersonesos, Byzantine period plates of a triangular form were widely used to decorate boxes with stylized floral and zoomorphic ornament. In block 60, in filling of the yard of house #2 a triangular plate with a stylized floral ornament was discovered (fig. 8, 3). This layer is dated to the first half of the 13th century. It was also attached with the help of glue. A similar plate was noticed in layers dating back to the 9th–10th centuries in the port district[25].

Details of clothes are also included to in the second group. A fragment of a bone button, turned on a lathe and decorated with a geometric ornament sawn through on the convex side and wiped out with white decorative paste was found in block 60 (fig. 8, 5). This button comes from a layer of destruction dating to the 13th–14th centuries. In Chersonesos, in layers of Byzantine time bone buttons of a similar form are found rather often[26].

---

20 Peters 1986, 51.

21 Romančuk 1981, 91 f.

22 Davidson 1952, 177.

23 Romančuk 1981, 89.

24 Romančuk 1981, 96.

25 Romančuk 1981, 96. 103 (179).

26 Romančuk 1981, 91.

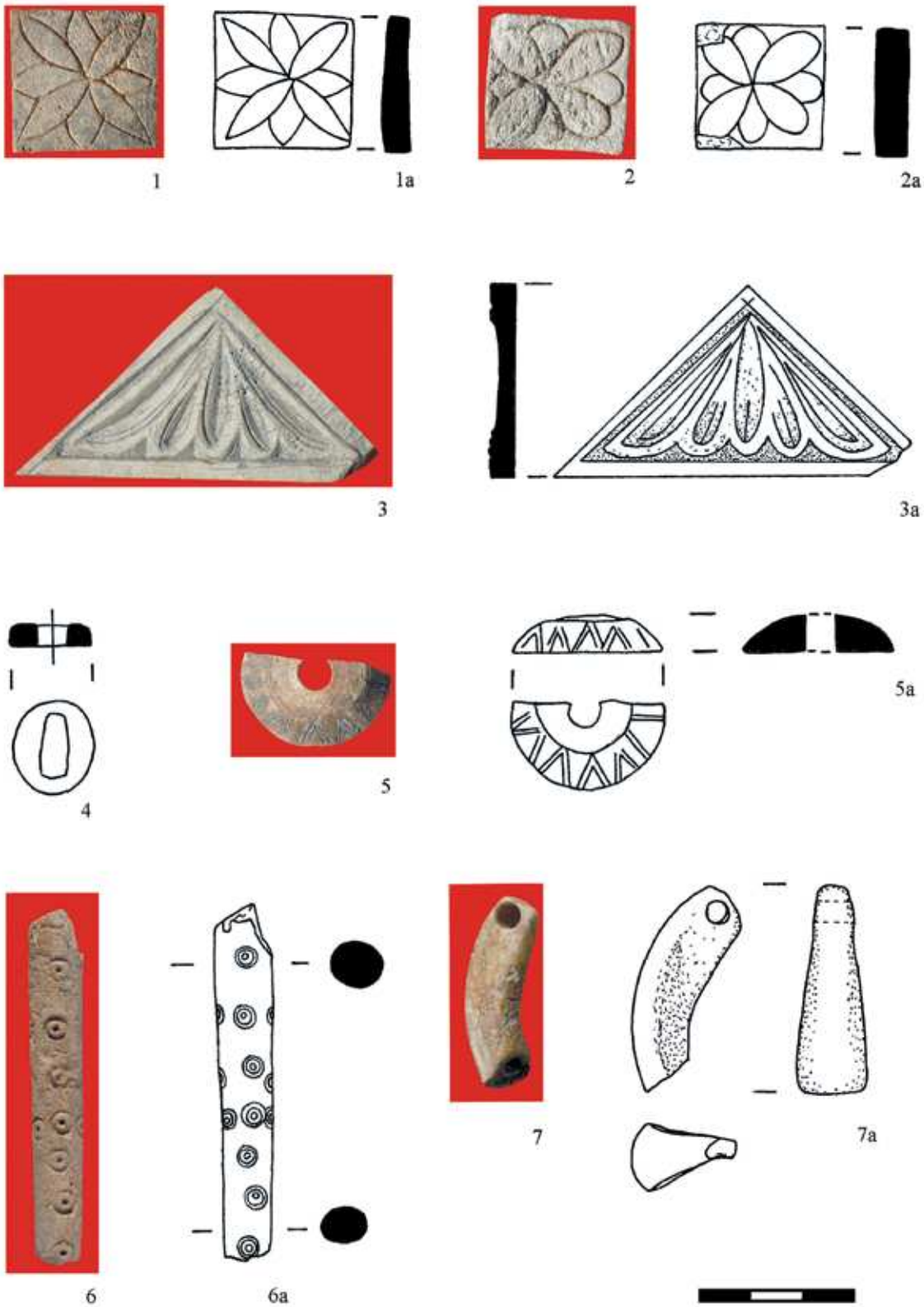

Fig. 8 Bone decorated plates of caskets and furniture, details of clothes, objects connected with spiritual life.

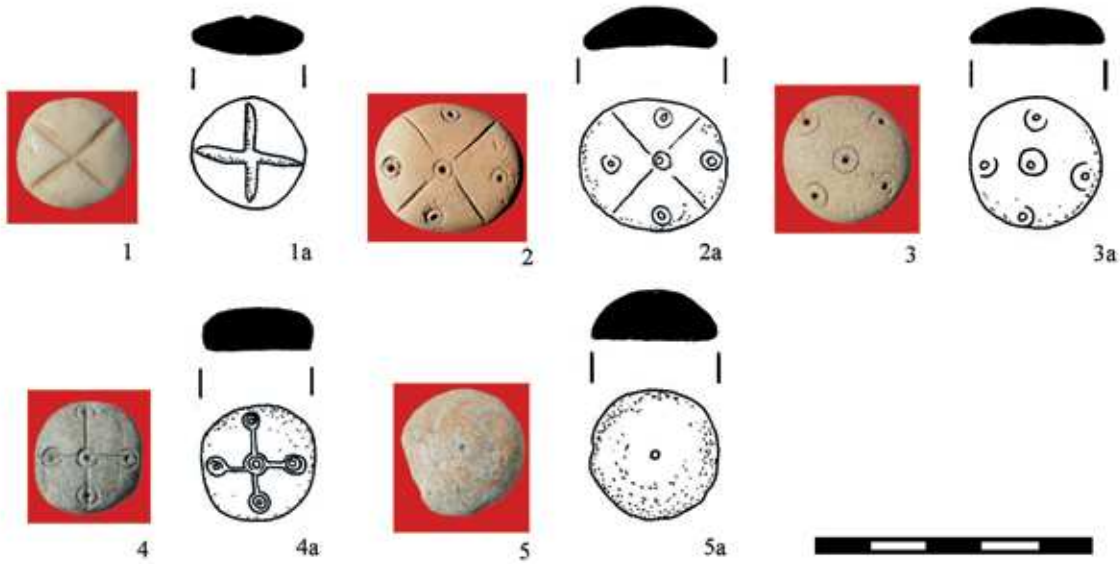

Fig. 9 Bone objects for games (dice and counters).

Fasteners of this form were wide-spread in the 10th–14th centuries from the Volga region to the Danube region and in Corinth in layers dating to the 9th– the beginning of the 12th centuries[27]. In addition to semi-spherical buttons, small flat bone fasteners that were used to attach leather belts to clothes are also found (fig. 8, 4). Unfortunately, this button comes from a mixed layer.

Styluses, dice and counters and a few amulets found in Chersonesos should be considered as objects connected with spiritual life. In block 60, in a layer dating to the 13th–14th centuries, in the street there was a fragment of a bone stick that due to its form and type of ornamentation should be interpreted as a stylus (fig. 8, 6). A similar stylus was found in Chersonesos in an older layer[28], as well as in Corinth, in layers dating to the 3rd–4th centuries[29].

The most numerous group of items made of bone are objects for games (counters and astragals). Gambling games were widespread in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions since ancient times. The form of counters did not change over the course of centuries. They were used in games similar to modern backgammon[30]. In block 60 there are mainly disc-shaped counters, with a convex surface decorated with a circular and geometric design. A counter with an equal-ended cross made with a thick mortise line was found in premise 1 of house # 1, in a layer dating to the second half of the 10th–11th centuries (fig. 9, 1). A similar counter was found in a premise in block 10 in the northern district in a layer dating to the 12th century[31]. In Corinth counter appear in layers of late Roman and

27 Flyorova 2001, 102 f.; Davidson 1952, 300 nos. 2539-2540. 2542.

28 Peters 1986, 60 f.

29 Davidson 1952, 187 no. 1368.

30 Peters 1986, 78.

31 Golofast – Ryzhov 2003, 218.

Byzantine periods[32]. Most of the counters with circular ornament found in block 60 were in layers dating to the second half of the 11th–14th centuries (fig. 9, 2-5). Counters similar in form and decoration were found in layers dating to the 9th–11th centuries and the 11th–12th centuries in the port district of Chersonesos[33] as well as in layers of late Roman and Byzantine periods in Greece[34]. In addition, a bone counter with no decoration was found in a layer dating to the second half of the 13th–14th centuries.

Astragals appear to represent a more complicated category; they were used as amulets, as fasteners recalling Japanese netsuke, in devices to ignite fire, for games and fortune telling[35]. Bones of the first joint of the third finger of a horse and the third and fourth fingers of a bull, goat or sheep, were used to make astragals[36]. According to popular beliefs astragals kept in groups and caskets brought happiness to their owner. They were tied to the cradle of a baby to make him/her grow successfully. Astragals were put to graves together with buried children[37]. In the three-apsed church in block 60, inside grave 16 dating to the 13th century, together with a child's burial an astragal with a net ornament was found (fig. 10, 1). A perforated hole was used for suspension. Graffiti in the form of herringbone, crosses are also found in layers of the first half of the 13th century (fig. 10, 2). A significant number of astragals in block 60 had holes and cavities. Perforated holes were used for suspension, with cavities filled with lead in order to make the bat heavier. One astragal was retrieved from a filling dating to the second half of the 11th century. A group of astragals with holes was found in the yard filling of house #2, which is dated to the first half of the 13th century (fig. 10, 3-5). In Chersonesos astragals were widespread since the Hellenistic era[38]. A significant number of astragals with graffiti, including those with letters were discovered in layers of ancient periods. However, the majority of astragals are for gambling without any traces of additional processing. In Sarkel, 367 astragals were found in layers dating to the 9th-11th centuries. Astragals without additional processing are found more often[39]. Dice in Sarkel are concentrated in the south-eastern part of the fortress where there was a citadel and caravanserai[40]. In Odertzi dice are found in layers of the 9th, the beginning of the 11th centuries[41].

Amulets in Chersonesos are found rather seldom and are connected with the spiritual life of people who probably hunded. In the port district of Chersonesos a unique amulet made of an animal's fang was found[42]. The layer where it was found was not indicated. Results of research on parts of the south-western side of the three-apsed church, in a

32 Davidson 1952, 221.

33 Romančuk 1981, 30.

34 Davidson 1952, 219; Papanikola-Bakirtzi 2002, 207.

35 Gilmour 1997, 171-173.

36 Peters 1986, 78.

37 Flyorova 2001, 108.

38 Peters 1986, 80-84.

39 Papanikola-Bakirtzi 2002, 209.

40 Flyorova 2001, 111.

41 Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999, 88.

42 Romančuk 1981, 92.

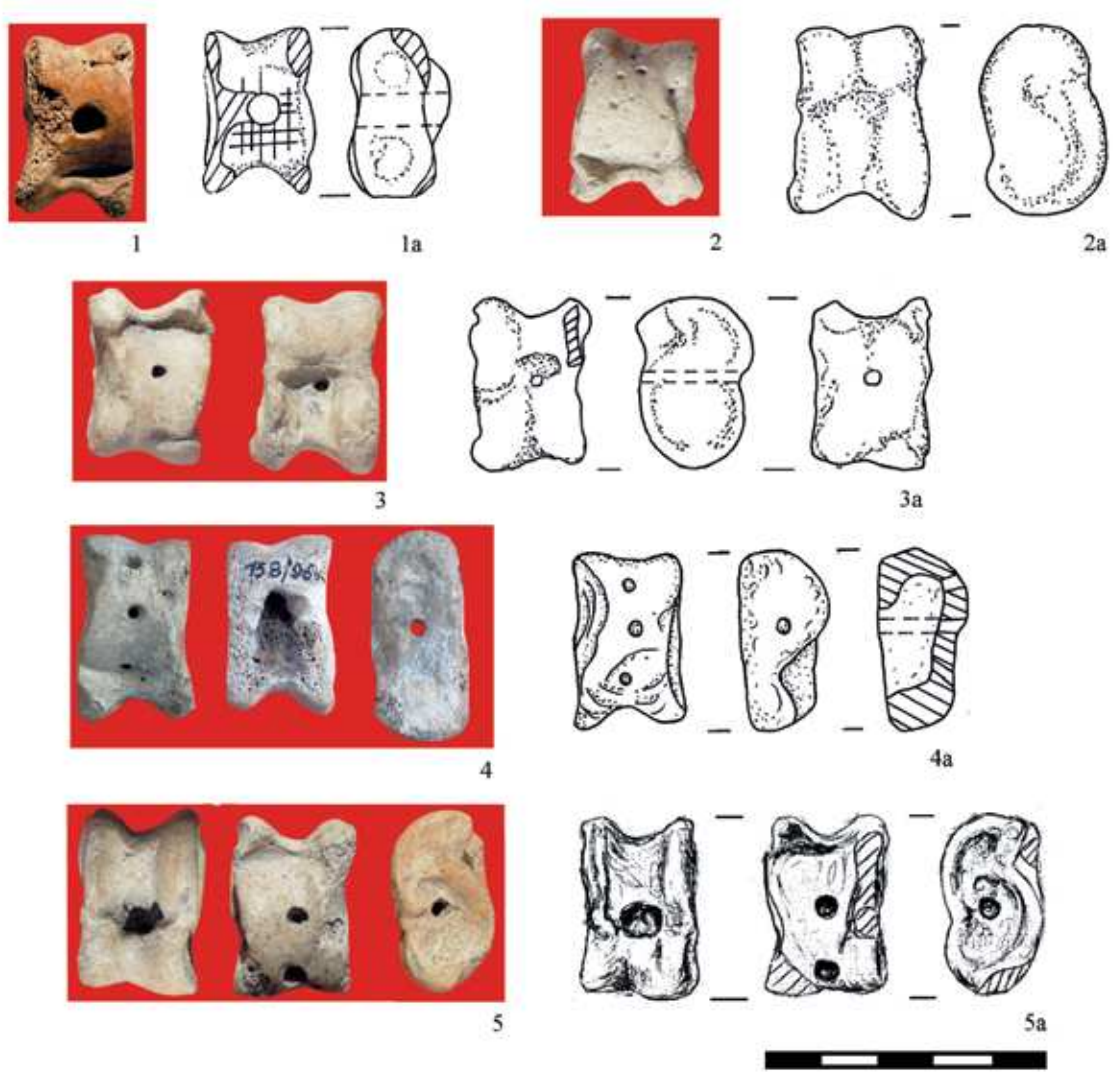

Fig. 10 The astragals.

layer dating to the 13th–14th centuries, a rather large animal fang with a bored hole for suspension was discovered (fig. 8, 7). The surface was well polished. It should be noted that a sharpened end of the fang was sawn off and gorund. Such amulets are connected with hunting magic. Similar amulets are rather numerous in Sarkel, in layers dating to the 9th– the beginning of the 12th centuries[43].

Therefore, objects made of bone discovered during research of block 60 in the western part of the site of Chersonesos enable us to define life traits of the inhabitants of a Byzantine provincial city. Study of the bone objects reveals that people in the block paid special attention to leisure. Despite the ban imposed by the Christian church inhabitants of medieval cities continued playing dice. Over the course of the excavation 217 astragals were found in layers dating to the 10th–13th centuries (fig. 11). A considerable concentration of astragals as well as dice and glass counters is characteristic of inns and military barracks.

43 Flyorova 2001, 111 f.

Fig. 11
The assemblage of astragals.

However, in this particular case all game objects were found in dwelling houses. War and horse equipment together with specific objects to untie knots and fetter-locks, allow us to suppose that in the Byzantine period inhabitants in the block had connections with the army or hunting. These two occupations could have been combined as well. Other objects made of bone, such as plates for caskets, buttons and other household items and tools are found on the territory of Chersonesos in layers dating to the 10th–13th centuries.

Credits: Fig. 1-2: E. Klenina. Fig. 3: E. Klenina. Fig. 4: A. B. Biernacki, A. Jasewicz, M. Makgraf. Fig. 5-10: drawing by E. Klenina, foto by A. B. Biernacki. Fig. 11: A. B. Biernacki.

Bibliography

Armarčuk 2006 — E. A. Armarčuk, Konskoe snarjaženie iz mogil nikov Severo-Vostočnogo Pričernomorja X-XIII vekov (Moskov 2006).

Baranov 2004 — I. A. Baranov, Kompleks tret'ej chetverti XIV v. v Sudakskoj kreposti, Sudakskij sbornik (Kiev 2004) 524-559.

Borisov 1989 — B. Borisov, Djadovo. Mediaeval Settlement and Necropolis (11th–12th Century) (Tokyo 1989).

Bülow 2007 — G. von Bülow et al. (eds.), Spätantike Befestigung und frühmittelalterliche Siedlung an der unteren Donau. Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen 1992-2000, Iatrus-Krivina 6 (Mainz 2007).

Davidson 1952 — D. Davidson, The Minor Objects, Corinth 12 (Cambridge 1952).

Dončeva-Petkova – Ninov – Parušev 1999 — L. Dončeva-Petkova – L. Ninov – V. Parušev, Odertzi, Selište ot părvoto bălgarsko carstvo 1 (Sofia 1999).

Flyorova 2001 — V. E. Flyorova, Carved Bone in the South-East in Europe of the 9th–12th Centuries: Art and Trade (St. Petersburg 2001).

Gilmour 1997 — G. H. Gilmour, The Nature and Function of Astragalus Bones from Archaeological Contexts in the Levant and Eastern Mediterranean, Oxford Journal of Archaeology 16/2, 1997, 167-175.

Golofast – Ryzhov 2003 — L. A. Golofast – S. G. Ryzhov, Raskopki kvartala X v. v Severnom rajone Chersonesa, in: A. I. Ajbabin – V. N. Zin'ko (eds.), Materials in Archaeology, History and Ethnography of Taurica 10, (Simferopol 2003) 182-260.

Koromila 1991 — M. Koromila, The Greeks in the Black Sea from the Bronze Age to the Early Twentieth Century (Athens 1991).

Papanikola-Bakirtzi 2002 — D. Papanikola-Bakirtzi (ed.), Everyday Life in Byzantium (Athens 2002).

Peters 1986 — B. G. Peters, Kostoreznoe delo v antičnych gosudarstvach Severnogo Pričernormor´ja / Le travail aux os dans les etats antiques sur la cote septentrionale de la Mer Noire (Moscow 1986).

Poulter 2007 — A. G. Poulter, Nicopolis ad Istrum. A Late Roman and Early Byzantine City. The Finds and Biological Remains (London 2007).

Romančuk 1981 — A. I. Romančuk, Izdelija iz kosti v srednevekovom Chersonese, in: N. N. Belova (ed.), Antičnye drevnosti i srednie veka 18 (Sverdlovsk 1981) 84-105.